

Australian

U.F.O.

Bulletin

PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

P.O. Box 43, MOORABBIN, 3189, Victoria, Australia

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL - CATEGORY B. FEBRUARY, 1976.

ONLY LIGHTS IN THE SKY FOR 1975

1975 ended with no reports of outstanding sightings of a really spectacular nature being received by the Society. All reports in hand for the year so far are of the "nocturnal light" category under the classification used by the American Centre for UFO Studies, which are considered in UFO research as perhaps the least "strange", compared with the more interesting incidents of the "close encounter" type.

Reports received since the last Bulletin:

Sep. 7. Byaduk (between Hamilton and Port Fairy) 7.28 p.m.

The witness was shutting his hens in their roost when his attention was drawn to a dull red light moving among the stars at an elevation of about 20 degrees above the southern horizon. He watched for a few moments then went to fetch his 2" astronomical telescope and geiger counter, but 5 minutes later, when he had returned and set up the telescope, the object had disappeared.

He was about to pack up when he saw it rapidly rising from behind Mt. Eccles, which is about 7 miles south of Byaduk. Because of its continual movement he had difficulty in following it with the telescope. However, at one stage it hovered just east of the PMG microwave link tower on Encke's Hill, about 6 miles away, and he was able to observe it closely through the telescope.

He said the object was spherical, larger than a bright star, and appeared to consist of a silver-grey central core surrounded by an aura which varied from dull red to an intense blue, depending on its movement and speed. An apparent contraction from time to time in the aura was thought by the witness to be possibly due to his straining to examine the central core.

The object described a "number of loops and curves" between Mt. Eccles and Encke's Hill, which, from his position, had an angular separation of about 20 degrees. During its sharp curving manoeuvres, the object varied between zero and 40 degrees in approximate angular elevation. He estimated that at times the object came down as low as 1000 feet. At about 7.50 the object disappeared at great speed from the vicinity of Mt. Eccles.

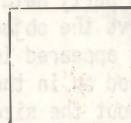
The witness claimed that the geiger counter gave 180 counts/min. during the object's presence, while after the event the count reverted to "normal 65 c.p.m." He also said that a radio which was operating

(continued)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Australian members: Adults....\$5.00
Pensioners and juniors....\$3.00
(Juniors under 18 - please state age)
Overseas members:US\$5.00

IF AN X APPEARS IN THIS BOX YOUR
MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE.



REPORTS (Continued)

when he went outside showed a sharp decline in signal strength and a strong rise in background noise. It was a calm starlit night with no moon visible.

The witness is a farmer who has done military service with the RAAF as an electrical fitter. He said it was not the first time he had seen UFOs circle above the microwave link tower, and he has also seen them circle the Mt. Eccles area before.

Sep. 21. EAST BURWOOD, 7.15 p.m.

From the witness's statement:

When first sighted, the object appeared to be 'drifting' at about the height one would expect a small aircraft to fly. The observer sighted the object immediately in front of him on coming out of a shop facing due west. Its elevation was about 65 degrees above the horizon. The course taken was due south, somewhere close to and parallel to Blackburn Rd., East Burwood.

After observing the object from the footpath for about one minute, during which time it appeared to move very slowly, I entered my vehicle and started to follow it, fairly quickly in a general southerly direction for about a minute. In that time several features were observable:

1. Firstly, it began to accelerate noticeably.
2. For about three seconds, the deep yellow light was 'turned off' and where the object was a configuration of four smaller lights were visible thus:
After the three seconds the bright deep yellow light returned and the white lights were no longer visible.
3. When my vehicle accelerated, the object further accelerated to such speed that it disappeared over the southern horizon within seconds.

I stopped the car and searched the sky for some 15 minutes for a possible return or other trace of the object. It did not reappear in that time.

The witness said that the object was about half moon size, indeterminate in outline, and appeared to travel at a constant height, accelerating from very slow to faster than aircraft.

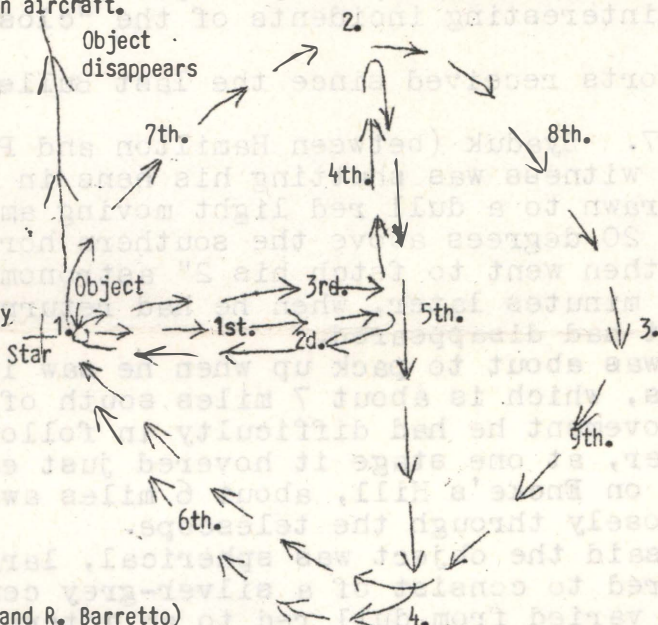
Nov. 19. NOBLE PARK, approx. 1 a.m.

The Noble Park witness was in his bedroom, and unable to sleep went to open the window. Gazing into the sky he noticed a bright orange light which seemed to flicker on and off, and which was stationary and situated close to a star at an elevation of about 50 degrees in a northeasterly direction. The object was star-size, but appeared to be brighter than the adjacent star.

After about 5 minutes the object began to repeat the series of movements illustrated in the diagram, continually flashing on and off. The movement of the object out from the original position was extremely fast, but during the movement around the circle it appeared to pause at the points 1,2,3,4.

He said that the object was very high, and appeared to be spherical, sharply outlined. No sound was heard, and no trail or smoke was seen. The movement continued for about 20 minutes, then the object disappeared by shooting off at great speed from its original position in a vertical direction.

(Taped interview recorded by Society members M. Fernandez and R. Barretto)

LETTER FROM PAYNESVILLE

Dan Haylock, who has investigated UFOs in the Gippsland area for many years, writes from Paynesville:

"On or about the 17th October a Miss Armistead had occasion to drive to a paddock three miles northwest of Orbost to inspect a mare about to foal. This was at 2 a.m. in the morning. While in the paddock a red light came through the clouds about a mile away and headed towards her slowly. She watched it for a while then decided to hop in her car and drive home to Marlo. Apparently at the top of a hill near the paddock she stopped and got out of the car for another look at the red light. It was much nearer to her, about 200 feet off the ground, and not very far away. Its apparent size was twice as big as a motor car, truly round and bright red. She didn't wait any longer but drove home. As the mare didn't foal until the 27rd. she had to visit the paddock many more times, but after that always took a companion along. Duration of the sighting - 15 minutes.

Miss Armistead sounded on the phone to be a down to earth country girl. The foal is worth a thousand dollars which explains the late night watch over the mare."

UFO OVER BALACLAVA?

By Guy Richards

This article concerns an observation made by Mr. A. J. Peart, of North Caulfield, and one other witness who does not wish his name to appear in this report, who shall be referred to as Mr. M. At the end of January this year, 1976, the Society received a report of a sighting made on Sunday, 4th. Jan., 1976, from the two witnesses. I subsequently interviewed them both separately, though on the same evening in early February.

The sighting was made at a party held at the two storey home of Mr. M. from a balcony on the second floor. Mr. Peart was the first to observe the object. He states that he was standing on the balcony looking at the sky, when suddenly a bright red object appeared in the sky before him. The object did not move into sight but appeared as though a light had been turned on in the sky. Mr. Peart describes the colour as being more like a burnt orange. The object appeared to be about the size of a two cent piece held at arm's length, and with an elevation of between 10 and 20 degrees above the horizon. Mr. Peart, who has had Army training in observation and navigation, states that the object was probably no higher than 2000 feet.

(Continued)

UFO OVER BALACLAVA (Continued)

After remaining stationary for a few seconds, Mr. M. noticed the object; just in time to see the object shoot across the sky. It travelled through an arc of about 30 degrees of the horizon in a horizontal and steady flight path before disappearing as suddenly as it appeared. Both witnesses state that the object disappeared as though a light globe had been turned off. The speed of the object was said to be far in excess of any aircraft. At no time during the sighting did the object change colour or shape and both witnesses claim that the object was solid in appearance.

The time of the sighting was 10.50 according to Mr. M. and about 11 p.m. by Mr. Peart. There was a storm brewing in the distance with the occasional flash of lightning, though visibility was good. Neither observer reports seeing any stars or the moon during the sighting and both assume that there was a total cloud cover at a considerable height.

Mr. M., an ex-member of the Society, says that he has never seen anything similar in his life, and could offer no suggestion as to the identity of the object. Mr. M. lives in Balaclava where the sighting took place.

Mr. Peart, on the other hand, has never had any contact with the subject of UFOs until the time of the sighting. He does not know Mr. M. very well and has never discussed the subject before. As I've already mentioned, he is a trained observer, and assures me that the object was not a flare, discharge, or conventional aircraft, and is completely baffled by the sighting.

There is a tape recording of both interviews on file, though the quality of the recording is poor due to a malfunction in the machine.

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Reproduced from "Xenolog", publication of S.A.I.C.U. (Scientific Approach to Cosmic Understanding), 33 Dee St., Timaru.

"Harmonic 288 - The Pulse of The Universe" Preview of Bruce Cathie's third book by Les White.

Readers who enjoyed Bruce Cathie's first two books, "Harmonic 33" (1968) and "Harmonic 695" (1971) will be delighted to know this author will publish the results of another three years research in a further book during 1976.

"Harmonic 288 - The Pulse of The Universe" should create as much interest in Captain Cathie's Power Grid hypothesis as did the first two books. (For example, critics will have to take note of an impressive array of German and Russian scientists who are seriously investigating grid hypotheses of their own).

Essentially the book will contain an introduction and 13 chapters as an extension of material published in the past. There will be a general summary of the basic principles of the Grid and an account of how it works. One chapter, "Pythagoras and The Grid", is aimed specifically at past criticisms from the establishment and reasserts the authenticity of Captain Cathie's material. The remaining material includes references to the work of Nicola Tesla, and indicates the existence of 12 "Devil's Triangles" placed precisely about the earth, which produce unusual physical effects. As well, there are sections on the "Piri Reis" map and Lakovsky's experiments on "the secret of life". A chapter on "Harmonics and the Laser" suggests new and exciting applications of this device.

Finally, Captain Cathie urges his readers to wake up to the possibilities for the future contained in this material - it seems that in Bruce Cathie we have a man who has dipped into the future to produce an idea whose time has come.

Captain Bruce Cathie is probably one of New Zealand's most prolific and widely-read authors on the subject of UFO-related material. His grid theory (Orthoteny) suggests that there is a power grid covering the globe which UFOs are able to tap for propulsion purposes, and which we could also utilise. Bruce Cathie provides a number of interesting ideas by relating his power grid to phenomena other than UFOs - earthquakes, atomic bomb explosions and volcanic eruptions, for example. However, his theories have not gone unchallenged from within the local UFO field itself. People such as Henk Hinfelaar, Vic Harris, Brian Musker, Murray Matthews, and Bryan Dickeson have expressed grave doubts about these ideas. Perhaps Captain Cathie's forthcoming book will offer further valuable comment to support the Orthoteny argument.

(Xenolog, No. 100, Sep-Oct 1975)

Te Kuiti Area ...Oct. 2, 1975: A woman and her 17 year old son saw two lights in a paddock at 7.30 p.m., on Thursday evening, 2 October. These were seen near Waikina, NE of Te Kuiti township. (We have later been informed that this is not far from the later discovery of the markings on the roadway found Saturday morning, 4th Oct.) The husband was with them but refuses to get involved in any way and will not be interviewed. "These lights were so bright that one could still see them in the clouds after the object took off, straight up". Three separate witnesses have rung up to say they too had seen UFO activity in the area on or near these dates at night.

Road Rings a Mystery Five distinct circles all 29 inches in diameter were found on a metalled road. These circles were discovered on Bayley's Road, Te Awamutu, on Saturday morning, 4th Oct., by a farm manager, Mr. B. Potham, who contacted Mr. C. Adam of Te Awamutu, who is interested in UFOs. With Mr. D. MacAlpine he took photographs on Sunday. The marks were still clearly visible in spite of the traffic.

"We went out with the idea of trying to define what had made the marks, but the more we looked the more we thought about UFOs", said Mr. Adam. "The stones just disappeared. They were not brushed away. The fact that the marks were near power lines made me think of UFOs", said Mr. Adam. The men said they tried to make similar circles by brushing the stones away, but it was impossible. Each stone would have to be removed by hand, and this ruled out the possibility that it was the work of children.

Tony Pivac who kindly sent us the photographs printed in this issue remarked, "The road circles (5) are rather unusual. Definitely not a hoax. Nobody could consider a hoax on a non exit road on a wet night miles from a town and directly under 3 11,000 volt power lines. The marks are not the same distance from each other but are all the same diameter. It appears that no weight was put on the road at all. It looks exactly as if someone used an empty drum with glue on its bottom and the stones missing had adhered to the drum as it was removed..."

Navy Man Sees Landed UFO An engineer with the RNZN stationed at Devonport, Auckland, left Te Kuiti at 5 a.m. Tuesday 28th Oct. and noticed a bright white light in the sky above the Te Kuiti aerodrome. He kept on driving, pondering on what it might have been, and, when turning a corner past Hangatiki cross-roads, he saw a similar light in the sky. He thought it must have followed him from the aerodrome. He stopped his car near a bridge, leaving the motor running and dousing the headlights, he watched out of his window for a full two minutes. He noticed this light low in the sky, and below it, sitting in a paddock, was this saucer shaped object about 50 feet in diameter, with one square foot windows all around it. He got rather a fright and took off to Auckland, where he had to be at work at 8 a.m. While he was driving he kept looking out the driver's window, and he noticed he was being followed by the object, with the white foggy lights. This thing followed him all the way to Pirongia. (He went the back road, not the main highway) He ran into quite a lot of fog at Pirongia and that is where he lost sight of the object, which was causing him considerable trouble. He had never had any previous experience with anything like this before.

...Two Te Kuiti investigators went out to the area mentioned to see if there were any landing marks or burnt grass, etc., but none could be found. However, they noticed again the high tension power lines across the paddock.

(Xenolog, No. 101, Nov-Dec, 1975)

SEVEN REPORT UFO SIGHTINGS

(Newcastle Morning Herald, 25/8/1975)

Seven people in Broadmeadow, Adamstown and Gateshead last night reported seeing unidentified flying objects. The descriptions, all similar, were received from 6.30 to 8.45 p.m. Ian Dixon, of Adamstown, sighted a UFO heading south about 100 metres above Adamstown. He claimed the object, bright white and glowing and about two cm. in diameter to the naked eye, paused for a moment and disappeared over the horizon. Oval shaped, low-flying illuminated white objects were reported by three Broadmeadow residents. At Gateshead a UFO was described as a white ball. All reports claimed that objects remained stationary for a moment, then rapidly disappeared.

MARYBOROUGH AGAIN

(Brisbane Telegraph, 26/10/1975)

Maryborough people are seeing strange things again. A few days ago, three separate reports of unidentified flying objects were lodged with the local press. This had followed a period of tranquility after the district was disturbed by a whole series of UFO sightings in June. Apparently the object or objects now provoking the locals has coloured flashing lights and is of "huge" dimensions.

UFOS

(Bellingen Sun, NSW, 28/10/1975)

Further to our item regarding research into unidentified flying objects in the Dorrigo area, we read of another sighting last week. It was made by two Eastern Dorrigo residents at 8.10 Tuesday night. They said the UFO appeared as a flashing red light, travelling east to west, and then veering north and seemed to disappear into a gully. It was travelling at a very high speed and made no sound and was visible for about three minutes.

UFOS OF THE OUTBACK... "MIN MIN LIGHTS" MYSTERY SOLVED?

(From an article by Jim Oram in the Sydney Mirror, 5/11/1975)

...After talking to dozens of outback people, tough ringers, cynical truckies, blase miners, I am convinced they have seen things that are beyond normal or reasonable explanation. Most who refer to the phenomena put it in a convenient slot, as UFOs.

"The simple truth is that you're not likely to see such things in the city", said Larry Dalhanty, a showman who has travelled the outback for the past 20 years. "You can't even see the stars in the city. But lying in your swag at night under a clear sky you see all sorts of strange things".

Dalhanty is convinced of the existence of flying saucers, or whatever name is given to objects from outer space. He has seen too much too often to be otherwise convinced.

I must admit that lying on my swag at night I saw nothing, except for the satellites and space junk that streak across the skies soon after dark. I have seen other things that could have been meteorites, or falling stars, or possibly an odd passing angel. But nothing to chill the blood as Charlie Fraser saw when he went to a water hole on the edge of the Simpson Desert.

"It was dark, about 7 o'clock, and I was just starting to fill my water bag when all hell broke loose", he said. "A blinding light suddenly came down just beyond the trees on the other side of the hole. The whole place was lit up. I got out so fast I didn't even pick up my water bag".

It is in the Channel Country that the famous Min Min lights have startled hundreds of travellers. They are a cold, bright ball of light that will follow cars for scores of kilometres. Many have seen them. A few have tried to approach them without success, much to the satisfaction of local shire councils who treasure the Min Min light as a splendid tourist attraction which would fail if satisfactorily explained.

But on the Mitchell River, far up the flat western coast of the Cape York Peninsula, I met a man who believes he has found the truth of the Min Min light. Allan Camm was, several years ago, driving a grader on that almost straight stretch of road between Boulia and Dajarra. A Min Min light began to follow him, slightly to his rear and about a quarter of a kilometre away on his right.

"I aimed the grader right at it. It was flat ground and I could get the grader up to its top speed of about 25 mph. I drove straight into it. It exploded all around me and then I found its secret. The light was made up of millions of glow worms. In fact, when I got to the pub at Dajarra I still had the worms in my hair and clothes".

That could be an explanation. But how do you explain silver discs in the sky as seen by half the population of Chillagee? Or the ringers at Borroloola, on the McArthur River in the Northern Territory, who one night saw a series of lights skimming the treetops? Or the mysterious way in which car lights and radios will suddenly go out near Gregory Downs on the lonely stretch of road between Camooweal and Burketown? Or the reason, let alone the tremendous force, for the cattle near Charters Towers having their legs broken and their tongues ripped out?

Probably the strangest occurred in Central Queensland during, of all things, a two-up game. Syd Santo, a reputable and well-known identity of the north, said 15 men were playing the game in the late afternoon after a race meeting. They looked up to follow the path of the spinning pennies, as is the custom in the game, and above them were two large silver discs.

"I've got no idea how far up they were, but they looked huge. Then they suddenly disappeared at a helluva speed. They worried us. They worried us so much the game was held up for 15 minutes".

And anything, apart from the police, that can immobilise a two-up game for 15 minutes has to be something startling - something unnamed and unnameable.

KIRUP UFO SIGHTING

(South Western Times, WA, 25/11/1975)

Two Kirup residents believe that they saw an UFO about 10 p.m. last Friday. One of the residents, Mrs. Maria Martella, said that she heard what sounded like rifle shots and when she went outside to investigate she saw a bright, red ball glowing in the sky. She started yelling and her next door neighbour, Mrs. Connie Tassone, came outside to see what was happening. She also had heard "rifle shot" sounds but did not think anything of them. When Mrs. Tassone came out, she thought that Mrs. Martella's house was on fire because of the bright light. The ball of light then moved over both homes to the north. It then disappeared behind the bush.

Both residents live opposite the Kirup Primary School and they watched the object in the sky for several minutes. They do not know what it was but Mrs. Tassone's mother, Mrs. C. Vinei, who lives a few miles away, also saw a bright light but thought nothing of it and did not go outside to investigate.

STRANGE FLYING OBJECTS ALARM TOWNSHIP

(Sydney Telegraph, NSW, 5/12/1975)

Nowra - The small township of Broulee, on the far south coast, is worried about things that go bright in the night. Residents have watched numerous unidentified flying objects light up the sky during the past eighteen months. The sightings range from cigar-shaped objects to others that resemble shooting stars but travel on a horizontal trajectory.

Yesterday, one resident who declined to be named for fear of ridicule, said he and his wife had seen the shooting star object three nights in succession. "It was absolutely weird", he said. "We were walking along the beach when the sky was lit up by a bright flash. It appeared from nowhere and travelled very fast from the sea heading inland. It travelled in a straight line and disappeared as if someone had turned out the lights".

Recently, one resident got such a shock when he saw a stationary object in the sky he contacted police at Moruya. But it disappeared before the police car arrived.

A navy spokesman said exercises are often held off the coast near Broulee but the UFO sightings do not coincide with exercises.

UFO MYSTERY

(Newcastle Sun, NSW, 8/1/1976)

A central coast research agency is investigating a reported "landing" by an unidentified flying object at Adamstown on Tuesday night. Officers from the Central Coast UFO Research Centre have collected soil samples from the "landing" site at Adamstown rifle range. The bushland area was covered by a white substance which outlined a distinctive capsule shape. Deposits of an acid-like substance were discovered on either side of the capsule. Although the white substance has been identified as flour the other liquid, known to burn human skin, remains a mystery. Samples of the liquid, along with other soil samples, have been sent to Sydney for analysis.

The site was discovered by two enthusiastic star-gazers, Mark Linnegar and Ian Dixon, of Adamstown. The boys are deeply interested in visits from the "outer limits" and maintain a nightly vigil of Newcastle skies with backyard telescopes. They have recently completed a film on an alien invasion of Fort Scratchley.

A group of school children camping in the area on Tuesday night claim to have been frightened by a strange light approximately 30 metres in diameter hovering over their tent. The boys said the flying light circled the campsite for about two minutes before disappearing into the sky.

Reports made to Williamtown RAAF base claimed that callers had seen a bright white cigar-shaped object rise from the bush at Adamstown at 8.45 on Tuesday night. The callers claimed that the object rose about 70 metres and then disappeared in an easterly direction. Other reports were received from Nelson Bay and Stockton areas.

UFO FLEW OVER CITY - YOUTH

(Geelong Advertiser, 16/1/1976)

A youth claimed last night he saw a circular flying object with flashing white lights fly over Geelong about 9.50 p.m. Peter Sellwood, of Maurice Street, Herne Hill, said the object made "a faint pulsating whirring noise". He said he and his girlfriend, Julie Nelson, 19, saw the object when they were parked outside her home in Andrews Street, Newcomb. It was flying in a south - north direction, and took a minute and a half to disappear.

"It had eight white lights flashing quickly on and off", Mr. Sellwood said. "The position of the lights showed it was circular. It was not a plane. It was moving straight, without changing altitude".

Mr. Sellwood said he saw it again for about 10 seconds as he was walking up the steps of the Geelong Advertiser about 10.10 p.m.

STRANGE THING AT MT. BARKER

From a report by Kevin McNeil, Research and Investigation Officer for the Australian Flying Saucer Research Society, Adelaide. (Box 2004, G.P.O. Adelaide, SA, 5001) Published in the AFSRS Magazine. Vol. 9, No. 4, Dec., 1975 :

...I arrived at Mt. Barker about 9 a.m. and went to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Phitzner about 3 miles out of town. The Phitzner farm is on Hendon Road near to and by an old disused slate quarry. Approaching the Phitzner farm I drove through a small grove of trees, and coming out of these trees I saw large power pylons crossing Hendon Road and passing near the farm. Readers may be aware of the significance of power pylons and close encounter UFO sightings.

Upon arriving at the farm Mrs. Phitzner told me of a strange incident she and her 10 year old son had a few nights previously. On Sep. 10 at approximately 10 p.m. whilst returning from Mt. Barker township with her son, they saw shining through the grove of trees on Hendon Road a strange yellow light. It was only in sight for a few seconds, however, Mrs. Phitzner was disturbed by its strange colour and was glad to get home. She then told me that a friend of hers was coming to tell me a stranger and certainly a more frightening story.

Shortly thereafter Mrs. Phitzner's neighbour, a Mrs. N. Longbottom and her 11 year old son arrived and told me of an incident that occurred to them during the evening of Wednesday, Sep. 3. That day was a school holiday.

Mrs. Longbottom took her son down Hendon Road during the day to do some ferreting in the gullies at the end of the dirt road. Mrs. Longbottom left her son to his rabbiting but returned at 6 o'clock in the evening to collect him. He was waiting at the pre-arranged place and Mrs. Longbottom attempted to turn her car, after the rain, on the wet and muddy track. It became bogged in the mud on the edge of the road. She and her son then commenced to walk up the road to the Phitzner farm about half a mile away; it was dark by this time. The boy suddenly noticed a light in the gully about half the distance from the Phitzner farm. Thinking it might be a farmer or hunters using a spotlight, they got through the fence and walked towards the light calling out for assistance as they did so. Suddenly Mrs. Longbottom became alarmed as the light seemed to be different and much larger than when first seen.

The light had now changed from white to a yellowish-orange colour and was moving slowly towards them, but seemingly at treetop height. She did not want to frighten her son and suggest (sic) that they proceed to the Phitzner farm. She was not fooling her son, however, as he asked, "Is that one of those UFOs?" Upon reaching the road they hurried up the darkened bush road towards the Phitzner farm. The light was now about 150 yards behind them, still yellowish-orange, and it crossed the road behind them just above fence height and began to follow them up the track about 100 yards away and keeping parallel to them. They were thoroughly alarmed by this time as the object, disc-shaped, had reached the proportions of a small bus. It disappeared soon after the Phitzners came out with Mrs. Longbottom to see what she claimed was there. However, they did see it for a few seconds.

I have no reason to doubt the honesty and straight forwardness of these people. Points of additional interest are the large power pylons mentioned previously and the fact that the Kanmantoo Copper Mines are 10 miles east of the Phitzner farm near Callington. Previous sightings have been reported from this area...

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT BENTS BASIN

The following case occurred on June 4, 1972, but was not reported until July, 1975. The case was investigated by the UFO Investigation Centre, Sydney, and reported in UFOIC Newsletter, No. 45, Sep-Oct., 1975 (P.O. Box 6, Lane Cove, NSW, 2066). The location is a popular picnic spot just south of Wallacia, west of Sydney proper. The following is reproduced from the UFOIC report...

...The witnesses consisted of a party of 6 people (names on file), 4 young men and two young women. Mr. S, one of the main participants in the sighting, does not have any great knowledge of the subject apart from reading reports in newspapers, etc. and therefore would not appear to have an 'a priori' interest in the phenomena. The events described below can then be interpreted without colouring from knowledge of similar events which appear in the literature.

The witnesses decided to 'investigate' Bent's Basin, known for its 'unusual' reputation for anomalous phenomena. The party drove to the area in an ageing Hillman sedan (circa 1962 model) arriving before dark. They parked the car facing downhill about 100 yards from the body of water and 200 yards from a small hill. The inclination of the car was such that the top of the hill was not visible unless one crouched down and looked over the dashboard, or got out of the car altogether. The party remained in the car for about 45 minutes and consumed some food they had brought along. As the lake area was in fact their destination, they decided to move closer, as by this time it was nearly 6 p.m. and dusk was approaching.

The driver, Wayne B, attempted to start the car, but without success. One of the others, Terry B, got out of the car and opened the bonnet to see if he could find the problem. The driver apparently responded too quickly in trying again to start the engine, causing Terry to jump back with a yell. He then turned around and noticed an object on top of the hill opposite. Moving back to the car, he called the others out to have a look. Some got out of the car, while others crouched down and looked out the front of the windscreen. One of the girls refused to look and hid under the dashboard. The object was approximately discoid in shape looking like two saucers stuck together, but being somewhat flatter in the middle, resembling "a small football". It appeared about 20' wide and 4 - 5' high. The top and bottom halves were pulsating alternately with a pink (Pantone 231), and blood red (Pantone 213 colour respectively, giving the impression of a line or colour division about the middle of the object. The lights did not illuminate the surrounding area. It appeared to be resting on at least 3 (probably 4) legs, the middle one appeared to be inclined outwards towards the observers and was bisected by a line, suggesting triangular shaped legs. The object was sitting just to the left of the top of the hill, the ground beneath it being in shadows.

The observers noticed a strong pulsating hum, which appeared to be in synchronisation with the alternation of the two colours. As soon as he noticed the object, Mr. S began to have a severe pulsating headache in the vicinity of his upper forehead. He did not think it was synchronous with the humming from the object, although it was not impossible. He later learned that all the other witnesses (except the girl who hid under the dashboard) experienced similar headaches. The group were frightened so much by the sight of the object that one girl fainted and one of the men allegedly came very close to doing the same thing.

The group managed to get the car going, and in a panic, took off downhill into the basin proper. They had not travelled very far when they heard a distinct thumping on the roof, then a little further on the engine caught fire! The party jumped out of the still moving car which ran onwards and into some trees, near the camping area. They then decided to walk out of the area, two of the men, Wayne B and another setting off up the road to get a lift. Shortly afterwards they came rushing back to alert the party to the approach of a huge "shadow" which appeared to be the "figure of a man". Wayne's attention had been attracted by a whining noise (distinct from that heard earlier) like "a soft whirling windy noise". Mr. S and another of the party then observed the silhouette approaching from the direction of the initial UFO observation.

They could make out the figure which was about 200 yards away in the fading sunlight. It appeared to be 8 - 10 feet tall and looked glossy (black?) but not shiny. It had "a round helmeted head, broad shoulders and arms that came to pointed hands". The body "tapered in at thigh level and the legs were not visible, perhaps because of obscuring scrub. The figure slowly approached the vicinity of the car, its slow movement suggesting movement on rollers, rather than leg motions. Mr. S later drew an analogy with the robot "Gort" in the movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still".

The group were by now hiding in long grass by the edge of the road, waiting for the "man" to set upon them. However they were astonished to observe the figure disappear as it came closer. One witness thought it disappeared like a light being switched off, while another thought it disappeared from the bottom upwards, like a screen rolling upwards.

The apparition of the approaching figure lasted approximately 30 seconds. The terrified group of people remained hidden in the grass for about half an hour during which time nothing further happened. They then made a hasty retreat out of the basin area, past the site of the earlier UFO encounter. The object could no longer be seen, in fact it had not been noticed after they tried to escape in the car.

The group managed to get a lift out of the basin with a man who said he had also heard strange noises in the area at the time of the incident. The group returned to the site with Wayne's father in an attempt to salvage the car. Nothing was noticed at the spot where the UFO had been observed and the fire in the car had by this time extinguished itself. However, Wayne drew everyone's attention to a large pair of "eyes" about 6" apart, in the trees. Wayne threw a stick at them and they immediately vanished.

The car was considered not worth salvaging and was left there, although our preliminary field investigation (August 1975) did not verify this statement. (The basin has been the site of extensive flooding since 1972, and there appears to be little chance of locating the car). Due to the earlier trouble in starting the car, it seems probable that the fire was attributable to fault in the car, and not caused by the UFO. Of the 6 people present at the sighting, 5 observed the UFO and suffered subsequent headaches. Only three witnesses observed the "apparition".

At this stage it is not possible to arrive at any conclusions regarding this incident, further documentation from the other witnesses is required, together with field trips to the area concerned. Suffice it to say that this case is one of the more incredible reports of late, and it appears to bear some resemblance to overseas cases.

1974 TASMANIAN CAR CHASE

The Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre (Box 1310N, GPO, Hobart, 7001) has recently investigated a case in which a woman and her daughter had their car "paced" by a UFO during July, 1974, while driving near Bridgewater. The object appeared to be a silent wingless oval, with a front top red light and larger bottom light. Along Tea Tree Road it kept pace with the car, keeping between the hills and the car. At one stage it rose higher, crossed the road, then descended again between the hills and continued to keep pace with the car. The women said: "After it came down again I felt as if I was in its power, as if it was definitely going to take over the controls of the car, it was hard to steer. We did wander right over to the right side of the road where the object was, to pull it back onto the right side of the road was quite an effort. I can remember that after it disappeared that my arms ached around the shoulders, so I was making quite an effort to keep the car where it should be". She added that her passenger was "dead scared", but that, apart from their nerves, they suffered no ill effects. (transcript of taped interview supplied by TUFOIC)

UFOS FOLLOW CRAFT IN SPACE SHOTS

New York, Monday (UPI) - Two Apollo crews were followed by UFOs during their lunar missions, according to a UFO investigator. Professor James Harder, an engineering professor at Berkeley, told a weekend symposium that Apollo 11 was followed half way to the moon and one UFO followed Apollo 12 on three orbits around the moon. He said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration suppressed the UFO incidents for fear of panic.

He discovered the Apollo 11 incident while reviewing tape-recorded conversations between the spacecraft and Houston Space Control, he said. He said the Apollo 12 incident, which he is still investigating, was discovered by a member of the space team whom he declined to identify. Official explanations that the objects were part of the space craft trailing behind it were not supported by the speed observed on NASA instruments, he said. (Sydney Mirror, 11/11/1975)

REPORTS FROM AMERICA

Near Goodwood, Ontario, Canada, 8.30 p.m., 2/3/1975: Several teenagers witnessed the landing of a "tadpole or tear-drop shaped" craft several hundred yards in front of them. Two rays of white light came down from the sides of the craft, which was about 25 feet long. The boys observed five additional craft hovering a few hundred feet above the ground. One of the craft swooped to a spot directly over their heads before returning to the formation. The mother of one of the boys said that UFO sightings are so common in the area that she doesn't think anything of them any more.

Brentwood, Cal., 27/3/1975, 12.54 a.m.: Two teenage boys observed an orangish ball of light descend from the sky, level off, and move from right to left and hover over a field. The glow around the object subsided and it was then that the object took on a "hulking" oval-shaped, dark coloured appearance. While hovering the craft slowly rotated and they could make out what appeared like three portholes with light emanating from them. Suddenly the object started spinning very fast, and the corona of light around the object reappeared in an array of colours. The object flew off between two pine trees toward the northeast. No sound was heard. The ground under the area where the object hovered was inspected. A depression about a foot and a half long and several inches wide in a small open area of compacted sand was found in the middle of the grassy field. Next to the depression was a compacted mound of sand, the same size, shape and length of the furrow. The boys said they saw a tube emerge from the craft with a nozzle on the end the approximate shape of the depression. The two pine trees which the object moved between were also missing some branches. This incident occurred in a residential area.

50 Miles South of Mexico City, 1.34 p.m., 3/5/1975: A 23 year old pilot, flying a small plane at 15,000 feet and 140 m.p.h. over Tequesquitengo Lake, was boxed in by three domed discs which intercepted the aircraft. Two of the discs flew a few inches from each wing and another below the plane. The pilot tried to lower the landing gear to hit the one below, but the mechanism failed. Then he tried to hit the other two with the plane's wings. But the controls did not respond. The pilot felt that his plane was "piloted by some strange force" between Tequesquitengo and Ialpan. Two air traffic controllers said they tracked the objects on two separate radar screens at Benito Juarez Airport.

Near Morden, Manitoba, Canada, 4.15 a.m., 10/5/1975: Awakened by several barking dogs, an adult couple observed a bright white light, about twice the size of a car, resting on the hillside near their home. They later inspected the landing site and found four marks in the earth, small rectangles about one to one and a half inches long, and pressed down about three inches in the ground. They were grouped in twos, 18 to 20 inches apart from each other, and about 4 or 5 feet apart in pairs at an angle from each other.

Near Carman, Manitoba, Canada, night, 13/5/1975: A large object, about 75 feet in diameter, was observed by several witnesses as it lifted off the ground. The object was recorded on a CKV television camera one mile away. The film sequence shows the object rising, hovering, then with a flash of light, move high into the sky at an incredible speed. The film has been shown nationally on the CTV network. Besides being observed by the CTV crew, the object was also seen by a newspaper editor and his staff. One week after the incident two members from the Winnipeg Museum of Man and Nature inspected the landing site and were able to record a high level of radioactivity with a geiger counter.

Jefferson, Oregon, 11 p.m., 23/6/1975: A huge cigar shaped object, estimated to be the size of a football field, was sighted hovering about 100 feet over the main roadway by a police cadet. He drove under the huge hulk, stopped, got out of his car and observed the object for 10 minutes. The vehicle was a solid dark colour and had no openings or appendages. Suddenly it tilted slightly upward and moved away at high speed. No sound was heard.

Gilroy, California, 11 p.m., 10/8/1975: Four wide-eyed and shaken residents told police of a frightening meeting with a "gigantic, humming grey disc with small lights all around", which they said followed a car for several blocks and then hovered low over a residential area. The disc, with a blue light surrounding it, followed the car on a parallel course for several blocks then "moved to the front...not very far away". The car made a left turn and the disc "made a U-turn and came back, travelling parallel again, about two blocks away and 150 feet in the air". All of the witnesses described the disc as having four large landing-gear like arms evenly spaced on the bottom.

Stockton, California, 9.35 p.m., 14/8/1975: Three FAA Air Traffic Controllers at the Stockton Metropolitan Airport and a National Guard helicopter crew observed a large disc shaped object in the south eastern sky. The disc shot upward, levelled off, hovered, moved to the west, stopped, then shot straight up and out of sight.

Mountlake Terrace, Washington, 5.15 a.m., 25/9/1975: A member of the USAF home on leave was awakened by the sound of several barking dogs in the area. When he opened the bedroom drapes to check on the noise he observed a bright red sphere hovering about 12 inches off the roadway in front of his parked car. The sphere was about one foot in diameter. Standing beside the sphere was a dark outline of the figure of a man about 6 feet 5 inches tall. As the witness stood staring at the figure, a high pitched tone began building up in his head and slowly broke up into a continuous high pitched beeping sound. At this point the witness became very weak and felt like he was going to faint. He broke off the observation and woke his wife. At that point the beeping sound stopped abruptly, and when the couple looked out the window the sphere and the dark figure of the man were gone.

LOST "BERMUDA TRIANGLE" AVENGER FOUND?

One of the most famous chapters in the annals of air mysteries is the case of the 5 US Navy Avenger torpedo bombers, which took off from Fort Lauderdale on Dec. 5, 1945, and were never seen again. This often-quoted case is a favourite with some of today's sensational writers, who hint that such mysterious disappearances in the so-called "Bermuda Triangle" may be connected with UFOs. An interesting item appeared in "Control Column", the aircraft preservation journal, Vol. 8, No. 12, Dec., 1974:

Key West, Florida - whilst carrying out an electronic search for a Spanish galleon, Treasure Salvors noted strong magnetic readings in only 5 fathoms of water some 30 miles out and a diver found an Avenger lying intact on a shelf, its cockpit still sealed. US Navy markings were still visible and its serial number was reported to officials who denied they had lost such a machine! The plane, with its occupants, still lie on that shelf, and one wonders if this is not one of the group lost in the Bermuda Triangle during W.W.2?

ALERT IN THE "BLACK COUNTRY", APRIL 20 & 21, 1974

A special report on investigations by the Belgian group, SOBEPS (Societe Belge d'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux), into a series of sightings on the night of 20/21 April, 1974. The report was originally published in the SOBEPS journal, "Inforespace", No. 21, July, 1975. Translation is by Alice Ashton, of SOBEPS (Bld. Aristide Briand, 26 - 1070 Bruxelles).

The Belgian newspapers, using their role of informing the public, related once again UFO phenomena that occurred during the night of Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st April 1974. These events, in the beginning, appeared to be rather trivial, quickly took such an amplitude that it necessitated numerous months for several investigators to acquire a complete idea of these incidents.

Before going any further, one must make a very important point: the incidents were accompanied by noises emitted by the objects, noises that several witnesses described as similar to that of the American police cars, as one can hear in certain police films. However, our own police and gendarme units are equipped with this type of warning system and, in respect to the period which interests us, this equipment was completely new and the Belgian public was not yet acquainted with it. Must one then conclude that the witnesses were deceived by tests undertaken on the new equipment? We don't think so.

1. The noise, even though resembling very strongly the sirens, was not identical (much quicker and more harmonious)
2. But above all, we questioned the different public services which possess vehicles equipped with sirens: no fire engines fitted in this way were out on a mission on the 21st April during the indicated hours. As for the mobile gendarmerie, it only uses this apparatus on the important road axis and not in the middle of the night except in an extreme emergency. Nothing of this sort happened between the 20th and 21st April.
3. The noise was accompanied in certain cases with a UFO observation and there, once again the witnesses are formal: it is from the UFO that the siren noise came, becoming louder when the object approached, diminishing quickly with its withdrawal.
4. Lastly, several months later, the 15th August to be exact, sundry observations came once again to put our investigators on the road. A witness from Dampremy, Mr. Hannot, succeeded in taping the famous noise at the same time he observed, with other witnesses, a UFO a little way off.

Everyone will agree, we think, in admitting that no gendarmery's siren when working has produced, or will produce, at the same time, a luminous UFO!

Following a sunny spring day, the sky night on April 20 was clear or only slightly cloudy in places. The temperature, although fresh, was normal for the season. Wind, moderate to strong, blew from the NNE. The first observations were collected to the south of Brussels, near to "Bois de la Cambre", where large portions of forest are visible from the residential buildings from where the first set of observations occurred.

We then have sightings at Mellet, a small village situated to the north of Charleroi (some 160 km) where the calm air is very much appreciated by city people. Even though crossed by National 5, Mellet has conserved its typical country character. From this region the phenomenon manifested itself above the industrial zones of Charleroi and neighbouring communes. It would be fruitless to write down a complete list of the industries in the Charleroi region which belong to the Iron and Steel industry basin and bordering the Sambre River. To the north of Charleroi, in the commune limits of Gosselies and Jumet, appear zonings or middle-size companies next to the metallic construction societies.

The Charleroi-Gosselies airfield houses the only plane constructing, revision and test flight factories in our country. The electricity sector is also very well represented and several electric power stations work from recycled gas coming from the blast furnaces. The railway system, which is extremely dense, connects all this region, which is also intersected by main international axes. The Sambre and the Charleroi-Brussels canal, which has been recently brought to a gauge of 1350 tons, are the only fluvial routes of the district.

The large Charleroi suburb is also traditionally known for the exploitation of its coal mines, which unfortunately today are practically out of use, and numerous slag heaps cram this region, justifying its nickname of "Black Country". The subsoil, riddled with galleries, overflows with fire-damp, and the whole of the zone is but a succession of geological faults.

Description of the first series of observations.

1. Ixelles Mr. and Mrs. De Beys, living at Ixelles, had on that night just gone to bed, Mr. De Beys preceding by only a short time his wife. The window and shutter were open with only the curtains protecting them from the fresh night. It was about 23.30 hours when the couple heard a strange whistling which they compared to nothing known. Intrigued, Mrs. De Beys got up but by the time she had passed the French windows opening onto the exterior, the noise had stopped: she glanced to the left and saw nothing abnormal. However, on her right she noticed a white light at the building's extremities even though there were no street lamps or any kind of lighting near by. Two minutes passed by without any incident. Then the peculiar sound was heard again to the right and at the same time the light disappeared; it was a kind of warbling sound of a very quick frequency and a totality comparable to an ambulance siren although less loud. The sound drew nearer and appeared to pass above their apartment; at this moment the witness said she felt a rather brief "electric shock" which left her shaken a few moments, while the sound drifted away towards the left, on a SSE bearing, in the direction of the Boitsfort race course. The witness then returned to bed but before falling off to sleep, talked a long time to her husband about the phenomena.

2. Ixelles The above-mentioned observation is confirmed by that of two other inhabitants of the same building: between 23.30 and 23.45 hrs Mrs. V and R were watching a TV program on the second French channel when suddenly the screen went blurred. At the same time the two ladies heard a noise which was compared to the noise emitted by a helicopter and appeared to be coming from the direction of Boitsfort, giving a SSE course.

About 100 metres from there, Mrs. Lebugle, who was in her living room, was likewise intrigued by a peculiar noise coming from outside. She went to the window, opened it, and looked to the SE where she estimated the noise came from, but did not see anything odd. She described the noise like a continued whistle becoming feebler as it went away towards the Forest de Soignes. The noise persisted for roughly two to three minutes after which the witness's reflection was "That sounds like a flying saucer". One must nevertheless note that her husband out walking their dog not so very far from the building did not hear a thing, and that the dog stayed perfectly calm (we refine this detail in other observations for that same night).

3. Jumet Our next witness (who desires to remain anonymous), Miss K. D. was at home in bed, the time being 23.45 hrs. Her home is situated at the height of the airport at the exact limits of the Gosselies and Jumet communes. The area is very calm since the noise from the airfield and the Fairey society are dampened by, fortunately, the decorative thickets. Miss K. D. went up to her bedroom after having spent the evening with her parents. While reading for a few moments before "dropping off", she heard a kind of crunching that she compared to noise sometimes heard coming from the telephone cables; weak to start with, it quickly amplified to resemble vaguely that of an American police car's siren, with a 62 degree azimuth and NE direction. This period lasted for about 40 seconds, after which a short period of silence ensued.

(continued)

ALERT IN THE BLACK COUNTRY (Continued)

Following this, the young girl's attention was once again captured by this noise frequency, but whose sound rapidly increases; at the same time she realised that the light illuminating her bedroom had taken on a queer greenish colour. Completely intrigued, she got up, looked through the closed window and saw, at some 250 metres to her right, and which appeared to be above the "Chaussee de Bruxelles", a big green balloon that lighted up the countryside and of an apparent diameter equal to 3 or 4 times that of the full moon. The object was fixed and stable; it emitted a sound comparable to that of a helicopter.

After roughly 30 seconds, the UFO with a constant luminosity suddenly accelerated and shot off in a SE direction. Following our investigation it appeared that the luminosity attributed to the object came without any doubt from the colouring of the tiles in the witness's bedroom - which are green.

Miss K D's mother, who was in the next bedroom opposite to her daughter's one did not observe anything abnormal. She heard, however, quite perfectly, the noise earlier described, which she said was animated by rapid frequencies. The total hearing time was roughly 30 seconds.

Finally, a third witness living in the vicinity, Mr. D. D., gave us the same declaration and, on top of that, another couple of the same area, Mr. and Mrs. G. L., ear-witnesses also, went out especially from their home but saw nothing. The apparent dimensions of the object, which we were able to calculate from certain landmarks, were near to 11 metres.

4. Lodelinsart Mr. and Mrs. Theys, who at 23.55 hrs. were in their bed, also heard during 4 to 5 seconds this noise frequency, which gave the impression of a very quick displacement. The bedside lamp dropped in intensity during this passage.

Description of the second series of observations

This second series is much more important than the first.

5. Mellet An electrical engineer and his shopkeeper-wife, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Breton, both in their fifties, are the next witnesses. Both are esteemed in their neighbourhood. At approximately 00.15 hrs. on the 21st April, the couple were in their bed since about 15 minutes when they heard a noise that appeared to come from quite some distance. According to Mrs. Breton, the sound resembled the "buzzing of a fly", to her husband, "a child's musical spinning top". In fact, he stated, the tone was rather piercing, with "undulations". Each modulation lasted half a second, with the witnesses having some difficulty in defining the different tonalities. The clamour's motion followed to a certain degree the N5, in the Brussels-Charleroi direction. It seemed that the emitted sound was situated at an altitude of 50 metres. Mrs. Breton explained to us that the clamour increased to a deafening din, and was "much louder than a low-flying aeroplane". She added that she "started trembling and was unable to get up, having some kind of heaviness on her chest". The witnesses noticed nonetheless that the windows were not vibrating.

So, Mr. Breton arose and looked through their bedroom window, which is situated at the rear of their home. At that time of night all the public lighting is shut off and, as one can imagine, he was most surprised to find that his garden and near surroundings were lighted up as if in daylight. The light was not white, but more of a yellowish colour, but not in the least comparable to electric bulbs or neon tubes, and did not vary in intensity. It illuminated a white house, situated at some 150 metres, as well as a row of trees.

He decided to open the window and lean outside to have a better look, and saw that the light appeared to originate from the "Chaussee de Bruxelles" side. Leaving his bedroom, he entered the one leading onto the front of their home and, upon opening the window, he once again saw the strange light which, in the meantime, had moved as did the sound, and appeared to follow the Chaussee. It was situated above the nearest turning and disappeared. The noise, however, was still strongly heard, but progressively decreased to become more and more distant. During all the observation the light did not vary in density. The phenomena can be decomposed as follows:

1. the advent of the noise : 45 seconds
2. observation of the light : 30 seconds
3. disappearance of noise : 40 seconds.

The Bretons also have an excellent guard-dog, a giant Doberman, who is housed outside. During all the incident he did not bark at any time. As an old war pensioner, Mr. Breton commented that during his confinement in Germany, he had been submitted to American bombings, but what he heard on that night of April 21st put "the wind up him more" than the loudest bombing he went through.

It seems that the incident was also accompanied by ground effects : a band of earth some 2 metres in width and 8 metres in length, used as a vegetable plot, rapidly perished following an abnormal browning of the vegetation. The witnesses were obliged to pull out the plants which were dying and completely turn over the soil. All this was done before SOBEPS arrived, unfortunately.

6. Mellet Still at Mellet, we go now to the home of Mr. Willy Grumiaux, 23 years old and a student doctor, who lives not too far away from the Breton's house. His grandfather and he were also witnesses to the phenomena above-mentioned. Willy, confirming the declarations of this couple, explained to us the events causing his troubles.

When the noise became intense, even unbearable, he stated that he found it impossible to get up from his bed, as if a "nervous current" were going through all his body, and to such a point that he felt rigid, even paralysed. He thinks, however, that it could have been caused by an abnormal panic, but also went as far as to say that it was perhaps provoked intentionally (by ultra or infra sounds?). He had never felt such a feeling before, and even though not directly menaced, wanted to grab his rifle, but found it impossible to move a muscle. He got the impression that this near noisy thing was made by something swirling.

Although sleeping in the same house, but situated at the back, his parents did not hear a thing. His grandfather, 78 years old, who was sleeping in a bedroom next to Willy's, did nonetheless. He had heard quite distinctly the mentioned clamour, but did not feel this particular fear, but he was not able to get up, either. The Grumiaux family have three dogs, but during all the incident, not one of them reacted.

7. Mellet We must now add to all these observations that of Mrs. Delaire, who observed a luminous spot moving on the ground and heard a modulated sound, like Mrs. Bouffioulx, living at Wayaux, who heard, coming from the Mellet direction, a rather syncopated noise ("we-u/we-u") moving parallel to the Chaussee de Bruxelles.

The phenomenon was slowly but surely approaching the industrial zones of Charleroi. A witness who unfortunately desires to keep complete anonymity, confirmed having seen a light yellow glimmer accompanied by a powerful hissing. The observation, even though perhaps important, is hampered by the lack of cooperation of the witness, and its only interest lies in a trajectory that brings us more to the south.

This incident is however backed up by a certain Mrs. L. V., who lives in a very modern residential area, in the centre of Gosselies. After finishing her work in a restaurant on that night, a little after midnight, Mrs. L. V. was returning home. Just as she was about to arrive she heard a "deafening electronic modulated din" which scared the wits out of her so that she dashed up the staircase leading to her apartment. Then suddenly, after she quickly closed the door, she heard nothing. Not stopping, she ran to her husband, then opened a window facing onto the road. The noise had stopped. It had come from an azimuth 7 degrees direction.

(continued)

ALERT IN THE BLACK COUNTRY (Continued)

8. Gosselies Near to there at 00.20 hrs. the Vanderclausen couple had just returned home and were preparing to retire for the night when suddenly they heard a modulated sound ("you-you") coming from the east in their direction. We shall leave it to Mr. Vanderclausen to tell us their adventure:

"I ran to our bedroom, situated on the first floor, window, since I was really intrigued and immediately saw a clear yellow glimmer coming towards us. It rapidly took the form of a kind of oval balloon of some 10 metres in length by 2.5 to 3 metres thick that came to a standstill at about 100 metres, nearly above the top of some trees of a small thicket situated on the other side of the Chaussee de Bruxelles (N5). The noise had a low-pitched tonality which quickly became unbearable and turned my amazement into downright anguish.

"During about 30 seconds or so this oval form with its clean-cut outlines and clear yellow colour remained motionless at the same spot and we were able to see that it encircled a kind of metallic disc. The object's body was smooth and of a metal grey colour. A darker spot could be viewed on the top.

"All the surrounding countryside was bathed in a strong luminosity which was strong enough to light up the inside of our rooms. The UFO then rose vertically, stopped for a moment, then shot off in one movement in the direction of the Gosselies airfield. Upon departing, neither the light nor the din changed in modulation. The noise stopped when the object had gone. Quickly we ran into the garden which is situated behind our home but we could no longer see anything. Our eyes, from having focussed on the strong light, were streaming with tears."

This incident can be placed in Hynek's type I classification, since it appears, in all evidence, as a close encounter. There were, however, no ground marks, and it appears that the phenomena's strong luminosity prevented the witnesses from being able to observe fuller details.

9. Jumet If we extend the trajectory which is indicated to us by the Vanderclausens' observation, we find ourselves in a small wood nicknamed "Bois du Comte". There also we have a witness, and one of quality, since the gentleman in question is Sergeant-Major Raczyński, who works at the Florennes Base. That evening at 00.24 hrs., while the witness was at home awaiting the return of his son, he heard, disturbing the calm of the night, a "wee-you/wee-you" (resembling an owl's cry). This din, rapidly intensifying, became so strong that the Sergeant-Major's attention was captured. Of an extremely calm and reflective character, the witness's sense of observation, precision and courage during the incident helped us enormously to reconstruct the events.

Raczyński, more intrigued than worried, decided to take a look outside. Arriving in front of his garage, he was still able to hear the same strong and rapid "wee-you/wee-you". The sound appeared to come from the direction of "Bois du Comte". It was then that the witness started to become scared since he realised that not only was the sound getting stronger in intensity, but that it was straight at him. The sound passed overhead and became stationary behind his house. The witness had the impression of being under a bell formed by a woolly and covering sound. The air from his lungs seemed to be as if aspirated outwards from his mouth and "ears" (Raczyński's expression). The din increased in strength to become unbearable and an echo became apparent as the sound moved on, according to him towards the Gosselies Railway Station.

Between the stopping and departure, roughly 20 seconds had passed. He had the impression that the acoustic wave sound progressively decreased to become stable to create the curious echo effect. Following this, the noise kept the same constant volume with tonality variations, which made it unbearable for the poor man to listen to and gave the sensation of being a succession of moving sound waves that he situated as follows:

* towards the Gosselies Railway Station (azimuth 350°) :

* towards the centre of Jumet (azimuth 288°) :

* towards the west of Lodolinsart (azimuth 192°)

Afterwards the din diminished to take the direction of Chatelet. It was at that moment that his son arrived home. And the first question he asked his father was "What are you doing - looking for the saucer?" The young fellow had just departed from his fiancée and was going up the "Chaussee de Bruxelles" between 00.20 and 00.30 hrs., when he suddenly heard, as it appeared to him, sirens like those equipped on American police cars. Here is what the young gentleman told us:

"The noise was coming from behind me but above, and drawing nearer. It reverberated on the front of the houses in the road and was sent back to me, and as I couldn't see where it originated, I decided to pay no more attention. Arriving in the fields I was still able to hear it but not so strong. It got louder once again near the football ground. I tried once more to locate it but without success. It became stronger and gave the impression of a padded and modulated sound that disappeared in the direction of Gilly-Jumet (Haubois). The next day my fiancée asked me if I had heard anything abnormal after I had left her the night before. Upon my positive reply she explained to me that she had heard the same thing, too".

His father, who had been in the Belgian Air Force for 25 years, compared the effect he felt to that produced by loss of altitude in a non-pressurised plane. One thing which is quite remarkable is the fact that the sound was not heard by everybody: Raczyński's wife was sleeping upstairs, which made her closer to the din, and heard absolutely nothing, even though she is a light sleeper. The neighbours didn't hear a thing and their dogs didn't even bark.

Proof of the military man's seriousness on this incident can be found in his attitude of correcting a newspaper following a mistake it had written on his observation. (To be continued next issue)

It has been suggested that the Society holds some purely social events so that members may meet one another on a very informal basis. Such social events might include bar-be-ques, outings, parties, etc. We would be interested to hear the opinions of members on this issue, including perhaps some suggestions for activities. If there are sufficient numbers we will endeavour to organise the most popular suggestions. Please address all correspondence on this matter to G. N. Richards, 89 Douglas St., Noble Park, 3174. Response to this article will be reported in a later Bulletin.

BACK ISSUES OF "FLYING SAUCER REVIEW"

Issues of the Society's printed magazine still available:

Nos. 6 (Dec. 66), 7 (67), 8 (68)....40¢ each

Nos. 2 (Jul. 70), 3 (Dec. 70), 4 (Feb. 72), 5 (Dec. 72)25¢ each

Postage charges extra: One copy....30¢ within Australia

Two to four copies....40¢

Five to eight copies....60¢.

LETTER FROM RIO

Dear Sir, I am a geologist interested in the possible implications of the UFO phenomenon for earth history and for evolutionary theory. Could you give me names and addresses of geologists, biologists, and others who are interested in the same problem? Could you place this letter in your magazine? - Dr. J. B. Kloosterman, Caixa Postal 41003, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.